

**MINUTES – CALLED MEETING
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING #1
CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA
AUGUST 24, 2022**

The Called Meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Camilla was called to order on Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Owens.

Roll call indicated the following present: Councilmember Tucker, Councilman Burley, Councilman Morgan, Councilman Collins, Councilman Pollard, and Councilman Palmer.

City Manager Dennis Stroud and Clerk Cheryl Ford were also present.

OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE

Councilman Burley gave the invocation and the Mayor and Council led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CITIZENS AND GUESTS

Sign-In Sheet Attached.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Councilmember Tucker, seconded by Councilman Burley, the motion to approve the Called Meeting-Public Budget Hearing #1 agenda for August 24, 2022 passed by 6-0 vote.

SPEAKER APPEARANCES

Steve Sykes of Steve Sykes Municipal Consulting LLC of Thomasville, Georgia introduced himself and stated he is representing Green's Backhoe of Thomasville. He is formally requesting on behalf of his client the City rebid the 2022 street paving resurfacing bid. On Friday, August 5th two sealed paving bids were received, opened and read aloud publically at city hall during a bid opening conducted by the city manager and city clerk. The bid amounts were recorded on a bid tabulation form by hand as the bid results were opened and read aloud. Both bidders used bid forms prepared by the city manager that provided only four line items, one for each street, and the city manager provided the estimated asphalt tonnage for each street. The bidders were required to provide a price based on the estimated tonnage advertised by the City, which was 133 tons. The project will actually require over 360 tons. Due to the City's error published on the form, the difference between the bidders was over \$180,000. When the low bidder was asked inappropriately to guarantee the price not to exceed \$31,920 the low bidder said their price was per ton, is accurate, and if required more tonnage the job would be higher. Because the low bidder would not guarantee a fixed price for a bid not advertised as a fixed price, lump sum bid, the city manager asked the high bidder if their price of \$214,000 was guaranteed. This was inappropriate because it was not included in the bid advertisement. At the August 8th council meeting councilmembers were asked to approve a bid award with inaccurate and incomplete information that was not provided prior to the meeting. Councilmembers Tucker and Palmer

questioned the bids and were assured by the city manager all was in order. Mayor Owens and councilmembers Burley, Morgan, and Pollard asked no questions of the city manager; however, the bid was not advertised as a lump sum fixed bid price. The bid form improperly described 700 feet of paving when there is actually 3,000 feet of paving. One hundred thirty three tons was on the bid but it is over 360 tons. Green's Backhoe respectfully requests the City not execute the contract approved at the last meeting and authorize the city manager to properly advertise and re-bid the project fairly, which includes an engineer's estimate and proper bid documents. Additionally Green's Backhoe requests the city clerk to provide copies of all documents submitted by both contractors in the sealed envelopes and provide the original hand-written bid tabulation used as the bids were publically read aloud. Had the City awarded the bid to Green's Backhoe the City would have saved \$120,000. The difference between the two bids was \$31,000 and \$214,000 but if the right quantities were used the lower bid would have bid \$89,000 and he thinks \$125,000 is worth the City investigating to save the citizens.

PUBLIC HEARING #1 – FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mayor Owens commented this is the first public hearing for the fiscal year 2022-2023 proposed budget. City Manager Stroud stated the City's financial consultant [Susan Roberts] is in attendance and together they worked closely with the city clerk and human resources director. The budget was put together primarily through the process of GFOA. They followed their outlines, made sure it follows operational, is a good sound financial plan, and a means to communicate the budget. They looked at policies and the time line, which was modified slightly and started just a couple months ago. He commented they would be looking at an overview of general revenue, special funds and strategic initiatives update. City Manager Stroud reviewed the budget via a PowerPoint presentation and commented our electric and gas costs have increased. They have been looking at things to help but obviously with the lack of substantial population growth and new housing, attracting new people and new industry is one of the big challenges for us. Some of the priorities he felt important was to make sure we can pay our bills, pay our employees, maintain our current level of service, fund our public works projects, and maintain good, qualified employees via a retention incentive which is included in the budget. City Manager Stroud commented on SPLOST revenues and the City's debt service. Mayor Owens stated City Manager Stroud got here in June and in August they are looking at a proposed budget and thanked him for his due diligence and ability to work with staff and the consultant to get the budget document done. Councilman Pollard commented he concurred with the Mayor and appreciative for the comprehensive budget. Councilman Palmer asked what the pay increase or cost of living increase for employees is. City Manager Stroud replied COLA has typically been 3% and this particular time they put in a retention incentive. If the Council tells him, he will go back and look at two to three percent increase and has not placed anything in the budget pending Council recommendation. Mayor Owens commented it is important for everyone to understand we do this three times [public hearing] and will have two more hearings. The purpose is to ask questions and is a great question. Councilman Palmer stated for the cash fund reserves, to balance the budget they pulled money out of reserves to balance rather than a pass-through on the cost of gas. City Manager Stroud asked him if he meant increase. Councilman Palmer stated he pulled money out of reserves rather than passing to the consumer. City Manager Stroud stated

they recognize in order for them to continue, it might be an option but was not an option here and did not put in without Council's directive. Councilman Palmer stated he does not recall telling him to do it. Mayor Owens stated he will not, and hopes there is a consensus of the Council, support any rate increase on the citizens of Camilla. Innovation, growing roof tops, and increasing business is the way you grow government and a city. The burden of lack of economic progress in this city will not be the burden of our citizens. There will not be any recommendation from his seat to raise any rate on any citizen in Camilla. The burden to make that happen belongs to the body [Council] and they need to figure out how to bring more money in the community without letting it be the burden of the citizens. Councilman Palmer asked if what he was saying is they are going to drain their reserves and then when they get to that point triple and quadruple the rates to be able to fund projects. Mayor Owens stated that is not what he is saying and it is time for the Council to get to work. For about twenty or thirty years there has been waiting and letting it play out. In a post-pandemic world the bill has come due. What he is suggesting is the burden will not be on the citizens of the city. The folks sitting around the table were elected to lead. Over the last six or seven months the Council has been extremely active doing those things. The city manager pointed out earlier what is hurting us is the lack of growth. The city of Camilla lost about 200 citizens in the last census and the county lost about 1,200. What they have to do is turn that around and the only way to do that is to grow your economy. Anyone who suggests they will grow or gain more revenue to cover deficits and somehow pass it off to customers will not receive any support from his seat. It is time for folks around the table to get to work. Councilman Palmer commented on the electric fund there is a \$1.642 million transfer out of the flex fund to balance the electric revenue fund. He and others asked numerous times for a rate study, which he has yet to see. Clerk Ford commented the study has been ordered and the City is in a queue to have it done. An ECG representative will be coming to the December meeting to provide additional information but the rate study is in the queue for completion. Councilmember Tucker stated in comparing the actual expenditures YTD provided to some of the items she made numerous notes to the point she feels she would monopolize the entire meeting with questions to the city manager. She asked about the sewer department for FY22, commenting they budgeted \$8000 and in the FY23 budget it is \$8000. Currently YTD, as of Friday, they spent \$14,000 on fuel and thinks it means they will have to look at fuel overall to operate within budget. With respect to the process she has a number of questions and asked the best format to submit the questions. City Manager Stroud replied she could get time on her calendar and his and they would go over them. Councilmember Tucker stated she made notes from the August 11th version and they received an updated version, which she has not had to time to review. In comparing the actual YTD expenditures there are some she has questions about. The ARPA projects, for 2022, from the August 11th version, page 17: the ARPA vaccine program was amended from \$44,000 to \$50,000. City Manager Stroud stated there were two vaccine programs: one for employees and one for citizens. The one for employees has run its course and this one is for citizens, which is still active. She commented she was not speaking not on the expenditures but the budget and why the 2022 budget changed because it is already adopted. City Manager Stroud stated this is an error and should read citizen vaccine program. She stated in the version of the budget they are currently operating from for 2022, it has \$44,000 and the version they received today it was \$50,000 and the number changed. City Manager Stroud stated the \$44,000 for employees has

expired. The \$50,000 is the citizen vaccine program and he will get the financial consultant to change it. Mayor Owens commented the \$44,000 and \$50,000 funds are ARPA, unfunded, and not budgeted items. Councilmember Tucker stated she was curious why it changed in the adopted budget column. She has quite a number of questions and thanked them for allowing her to provide input for the election costs. In Clerk/Administration, account 52-3852, in the original sent on August 11th the budget for last year was \$10,000 and last year they had two elections, a regular and special. The City had expenditures over \$34,000. It costs \$17,000 to operate an election on paper and what was budgeted was \$12,000. She appreciates they went in and changed to \$35,000 based on their conversation. The original received was at \$12,000 and she appreciates they went back to reflect that cost. Back to Councilman Palmer's question, she asked for clarification about there not being a COLA in the budget. The most valuable thing the City has are employees and they want to take care of them. On page 7, general government building, it was \$19,800 and in the new budget it is \$21,000. She assumes he put in a percentage for COLA although she has not calculated the difference and asked the difference between 2022 and 2023. For customer service, City Manager Stroud stated he looked at the employees in the department and the salary disparities. They have two employees with the same amount of service time and job duties and there was a disparity. Mayor Owens commented prior to last year there was no COLA and a 3% merit increase. The COLA went away and was an administrative decision. There was an automatic 3% COLA and around 2018/2019, administratively it ended. Two years later 3% came back for COLA and 2% for merit for a possible 5% increase. The employees had to compete for the 2%. The 3% as of last year became automatic again. The way the program is built it incorporates 3%. They have not gotten to the merit increase but what the city manager is talking about with the retention incentive will replace the merit increase. After additional comments, Councilmember Tucker asked on page 2 of the new budget for City Manager he mentioned he was going to reduce that and if it was for the city manager and an administrative assistant. City Manager Stroud stated he looked at the salary for the previous administrative assistant and that is what is included. She asked for Financial, page 4, if the salary reduction is for one employee and a contractor only and City Manager Stroud replied yes. Under the expenses for 1201, professional auditing and accounting, YTD they spent \$43,000 on audits and accounting and it could be he is able to justify as a one-time cost. The legal budget has been exceeded as well. For public safety employees, on line 1101, she asked if that is the same number of staff budgeted in the past. City Manager Stroud stated he corrected some salary levels and some vacancies have been filled. For line item 1300, it looks like they are spending a lot of money on overtime and the reason it was increased. City Manager Stroud commented he expects it to be lower since vacancies have been filled and the line item will be monitored. Mayor Owens reminded them some of the overtime they see is due to the Tyson contract and organically the number will reduce just because. City Manager Stroud commented the fire chief wants to create three additional roles and he is working with him on that. Councilmember Tucker commented for the Downtown Camilla budget, she was curious about moving the marketing position to Downtown Camilla. It is under the city manager's purview and the decision is his where he wants to put it. With the marketing employee answering to the city manager, she wondered if it should be under City Manager Executive. City Manager Stroud stated when he looked at Downtown Camilla and Marketing/Communication Director there was not a previous budget.

For him to create one he had to go in the system and create one and marketing/communication will have their own budget. Councilmember Tucker stated according to the job description the position reports to the city manager. She stated it reflected one retention incentive and there needs to be two. For the 2100 group insurance, it jumped from \$9,800 to \$33,000. She has not looked at the actual and City Manager Stroud commented it looks out of sort and he will check on it. For line 1106, Downtown Camilla programs, she has no preference to list every program but it does not matter to her. If other members of Council would like to see it she is totally indifferent to that. After further comments she stated for the public to understand, each department head sat down with the city manager to develop the budget. Mayor Owens stated to clarify, and to remind the Council and public, part of the process is when they get to the second budget hearing whatever changes are going to be made will become the second draft. If there is something they would like to see changed, put it on the floor so he can get a consensus to have the city manager put in the second draft. Some of Councilmember Tucker's questions are more administrative than legislative and they can work that out after they have an opportunity to talk. He has legislative changes and during the public hearing portion, the public will have an opportunity to speak on the changes. He stated to the public they heard the city manager and Council talk about the budget and year-to-date. For them to understand the two documents, the city manager provided the Council with everything spent this fiscal year up until today and they are balancing that against what was actually budgeted. Using those two documents you can get an idea of what you will be doing for the next fiscal year. Both of the documents complement each other. He stated on August 19th he sent an email to the Council, city manager, and city clerk/assistant city manager related to his proposed changes for the upcoming fiscal year. What he has recommended, and will ask for a consensus tonight, is to have the city manager adjust in the second version on the budget. He has two specific recommendations: the first is to remove the assistant utilities director (AUD) and the director of marketing and communication position from the position classification and pay plan. The second recommendation is the library is requesting a \$3,000 annual bump and asking for \$43,000 year. He will, instead, request the \$40,000 remain as is and provide the library with a one-time grant of \$5,000 from ARPA. It will be a one-time grant and the \$40,000 will continue going forward. He asked the city manager for representatives from each of those funds [Library, Stitches, Chamber of Commerce, and Boys and Girls Club] to have a discussion about the budgeted amounts. For the retiring and removal of assistant utilities director and the marketing/communications director, he pointed out to the Council collectively the AUD is more of an organic position. The employees we have currently employed with the City of Camilla should be given an opportunity to compete for the title. He believes the position should transition to an additional duty and employees we have working should have an opportunity to compete for the additional duty and additional compensation which will render the position moot. For the director of marketing and communications position, what they are talking about is a function and not people. He believes the function of the position, in the information he provided, can be done for \$20,000 to \$30,000. The position right now, with a salary of \$55,000 to \$56,000 in addition to benefits and the operations budget which we did not have before, we are somewhere in the neighborhood of \$70,000 to \$80,000 in expenditures. In the information sent it can be clearly seen what they are trying to do as far as regional appeal for our city and things we are trying to do internally for our city, that for the most part can be

outsourced somewhere between \$6,000 to \$16,000 for videos. \$16,000 split in the middle at \$12k, \$13k, or \$16k, you still have \$14,000 to go in terms of doing the function of that position which today is going to cost us between \$70,000 to \$80,000, a reduction of about \$40,000 to \$50,000. It is something the Council should consider and give that direction to the city manager to make this part of the second draft of the budget. The other issue, which the Council does not have and conversation related to the Airport, we are projected to transfer in about \$75,000 to the Airport fund to balance that budget. What that means is there is not enough revenue coming in from the Airport to cover the expected expenditures. To date we transferred in about \$37,500. City Manager Stroud commented they are transferring money in to balance the fund. Mayor Owens stated the airport is a tremendous asset for the city of Camilla and we need it. The question is are we leveraging the operations to where it can be self-sufficient without having to send money to balance it. They need to start looking in to things such as drone technology and what can they do to help the agricultural industry using drone technology. There are things they can do to help the airport become self-sufficient without transfers in from the general fund. That really needs to be looked at because the Airport plays an important role in our overall economy but we need to make sure we are doing it efficiently. He suggests every quarter after the new budget is passed to start looking at where they are. We have an Airport Committee and it is time to get those folks in and have a conversation. We cannot continue to operate that fund at a loss of \$30,000 to \$40,000. It was projected at the beginning of the fiscal year we would have to do \$75,000 and does not think in good conscious we can continue to tell that to the citizens of Camilla. He does believe if they work hard enough they can figure out a way to make the airport self-sufficient and looks forward to the conversation. He is not asking for any reductions in the Airport budget for the upcoming fiscal year but is saying they should start looking at it every quarter up until they get to this point next year. When Councilmember Tucker was discussing her concerns, she made a great point we have to start back receiving the financials. The city manager got here in June and we have to start receiving financials every quarter so everyone will be well versed in where we are. He is looking forward to the financials starting back up in the new fiscal year. He asked if there is a consensus to direct the city manager to have these amendments for the second draft of the budget which includes the position classification and pay plan. Councilmember Tucker asked if they would have a chance to speak before the vote. Mayor Owens commented it was not a vote and only a consensus being taken for the city manager to do and the next meeting this item will not be pending in the position and classification plan. Councilmember Tucker requested she be allowed to speak and Mayor Owens stated she did not have to request and would have the option. Mayor Owens asked if there was a consensus to direct the city manager to amend the fiscal 2022-2023 budget minus the assistant utility director's salary and benefits and the director of marketing and communication's salary and benefits. Councilmen Burley, Morgan, and Pollard were in favor of the directive for the city manager to amend the budget. Mayor Owens stated two things are happening, the budget and the position classification and pay plan. With the consensus, he will reserve the right between now and the work session in September to vote on the position and classification pay plan. The reason why is because if these positions are removed there is work they will need to do prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. This is separate of the budget and the position and classification plan. Between now and the September work session there is a possibility he will be asking for a

vote to approve the new position and classification plan. Councilmember Tucker stated she always looks to the Charter and does not feel like the Mayor is operating within the scope of what the Mayor's duties are. She read Section 3.14 with respect to position classification and pay plan. She stated she had this conversation with the city manager and asked him if he is desiring to eliminate, because it is in the Charter for him to make the recommendation, and state back to the Council he wishes to remove the marketing director from the position and classification plan. She had conversation with the city manager and the strategic plan the Council adopted has a very lengthy marketing/communication piece and encumbers a number of tasks. She posed to the city manager how they would do that when there is no one on staff to do the day-to-day operations the Council charged through the strategic plan. When the mayor says he is the chief policy advocate and is bringing to their attention, she read from the Charter: The Mayor shall be the head of the city for the purpose of service of process and for ceremonial purposes, and be the official spokesperson for the city and the chief advocate of policy. That policy is set by each person sitting around the table. Each person has the same equal amount and the mayor is given no more advocate of policy and he should advocate for policy the Council creates. It does not say he is the chief policy advocate meaning he makes all the policy and you vote 3-3 and let him break the tie. What it means is when the Council adopts a policy the Mayor advocates on behalf of the Council. Her question to the city manager is there are a number of things in the strategic plan and how they propose to accomplish those. City Manager Stroud started his charge as the city manager is to carry out the duties of the Council. If marketing to grow this city is part of his charge he would like to have a gauge to do that function. The Mayor used a good word when he used function. If he continues to do the marketing piece he needs the right resources. He does not care where they come from but he needs the resources to market Camilla. When asking how he is going to do that, it all depends on what they [Council] ask him to do. It is in the strategic plan and all he needs to do is go back and read it thoroughly, develop plans and objectives, get the directors behind him, and move forward. He is just interested in having the right resources to accomplish what he is asked for. Councilmember Tucker commented she contends resources are in the budget for that to occur. She cannot see the magnitude of what they addressed in the strategic plan being accomplished through outsourcing. It will take someone to be here and what they need is better communication within the departments and departments with the community. That piece is being improved upon with the help of the position and that piece cannot be outsourced with someone shooting a video of council meetings. That is not the totality of what is in the plan. Her question to the Mayor is he seems to have someone in mind for the position and noticed Scarlett Wimberly was here and if she has been paid. City Clerk Ford commented she has received compensation. Councilmember Tucker stated we hired someone to come in even though we have someone on staff without the Council and she was hired to come in. Mayor Owens stated we voted on that. Councilmember Tucker and Councilman Palmer commented they had not seen a contract for Scarlett Wimberly. Mayor Owens stated there is not a contract. When they were meeting on the 4th floor there was not a contract for the gentleman to come in and operate the sound board. They did not vote on that and there was no contract. This was not a contract and the Council authorized them to explore how this would work. They did it for two sessions and produced a product for the public to see. For the question as it relates to the strategic plan and marketing and communications, the councilwoman has only been on the board

for eight or so months. The marketing and communications plan was approved unanimously by the City Council and he wrote it. The policy being operated under right now was written by him [Mayor] and approved unanimously by the Council. He knows intricately what is in the strategic plan as it relates to the communications and marketing plan. As the city manager pointed out as it relates to the function, they are not talking about people but the function of the job. When they are talking about videos, they are not talking about the pressing of 'play' for Facebook live. Scarlett Wimberly, PBS Productions, is not hired to do this and will not be hired to do that. What they are doing is the council meetings. Councilmember Tucker is aware because she got the email and saw the quotes of what would be required of these folks. He is confused why they are talking about council meetings being recorded. It is outlined in the quotes sent to Council what would be the scope of the professional videographer. It will include drone technology, production of sound, all of it. Every aspect of making a 30 to 60 second video or commercial is what we will be paying for and not the responsibility of PBS Productions. Councilmember Tucker commented she begged to differ and it is about people. As she mentioned when they were talking about not seeing COLA increases for our employees, it is about people. It was about people when they lost Lisa, Steve, and when Paige Gilchrist walks out of the city. It is about people. Councilman Palmer commented it is the first time he has heard saving and not something that has been said in the building for a long time. To Mrs. Tucker's comment about the strategic plan, they thrashed that out extensively a year to two years ago and here they are adjusting it, changing it to whatever suits the direction of the Mayor. This is a small town and not a lot of jobs are available and the reason many people drive out of town. We are eliminating positions and doing contract work with people who may live in Albany or Atlanta and they are not contributing to this community or economy. It is a poor way to do economic development but seems to be the standard in this building. It is a shame they have to sit and listen to it and will yield the floor for more spin. When he, Mrs. Tucker, and Mr. Collins talk all they get is spin and he is talking about spinning the conversation, not spending money. Mayor Owens stated he can imagine for some this must be extremely frustrating. This is a new day in Camilla, Georgia and he gets it. This is something extremely new but they are moving the City forward and will do so efficiently, economically, and with a more enhanced product. The councilmember mentioned this is about people. In the context of the position, and we are not talking about livelihoods. He has an oath that speaks to that and cannot look the citizens in the face and say I believe there is a product we can do that will be more enhanced and save this city more than \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year. He is not going to do that and as it relates to the strategic plan, it does not change at all. The strategic plan, passed unanimously, talks about the function of the position and thinks this is the time they take this opportunity to operate the function of the position. He suspects if they disagree it will be reflected in their vote. Councilman Pollard commented it is not people he is considering but a position. To another point made about taking away jobs and people in the small town of Camilla, he asked the Council to take a look at the employees they house. If they look at the employees they house it will clearly open up more doors and the blind eye. They are not citizens of Camilla and ask them to look at those things. If the answer is still the same they are doing a disservice to the citizens of Camilla. They are serving the people of Camilla whether they have agreements or disagreements. It is about serving the people and the city. They may disagree, and it is okay, because none of them are alike and are unique in their own ways. It is

what makes them so great. They can agree to disagree and move forward. They are not a three-three Council as some would like to name them. They are the Council of the City of Camilla whether they respect their decisions or not. They are the Council chosen by the people. He is a proud councilmember of the city of Camilla. Mayor Owens commented the consensus of the City Council is the position of Assistant Utilities Director and Director of Marketing and Communications be removed from the position and classification plan and thus the funding for those positions are removed. That vote will happen between now and the work session for September. If there is a called meeting for that they will get the notice before September's work session. Councilmember Tucker stated for the Assistant Utilities Director it was between him [city manager] and the department head and a recommendation he was making to the Council to eliminate the position and something they agreed on. City Manager Stroud stated they did not agree. The issue is when he looks at the duties and the scope is an assistant director needed or can the public works superintendent do the same thing. She stated she is so afraid this is sending a signal to our current employees about civility. City Manager Stroud stated he hopes it will allow them to compete for the next level. Councilmember Tucker stated the way she understood the process is they will have three public hearings. For the second public hearing there will be public input in the Mayor's proposal in eliminating a position. Would it be best for the process to play out to go through Public Hearing #2 and #3 before they make any change to the classification. She thinks the public needs to the opportunity to voice their opinion. She fully understands what the vote will be and has read the book. She wants to make sure the public is going to be granted the opportunity before a vote is taken and if there are two more public hearings it would allow ample time. City Manager Stroud replied he takes his charge from them. Mayor Owens stated during that exchange she was talking to the city manager who does not create policy in the city. Councilmember Tucker replied she was requesting about process. Mayor Owens stated the process, as it relates to the position and classification plan, is a policy deal. The plan can change daily and they changed the plan at least three times in the last year and a half. The position and classification plan is not tied to the budget. Typically it is submitted with the budget and the consensus, as it relates to if the city manager is recommending, is moot. Either through the position and classification plan or removing the funding from the budget it amounts to the same thing. He wanted to make sure the city manager has a consensus for the change to be made. If the people want an opportunity to speak on it the item will be on the agenda whether it a called meeting or a regularly scheduled meeting. Because a majority of the Council decided to remove the three-day requirement to speak, any citizen can come and have a conversation. The citizens will have an opportunity to speak, whether it is a great number of citizens as she characterized it and that is encouraged. They want to hear from them and it is important. Councilmember Tucker commented she does not see the time sensitivity for a called meeting because many of them have jobs and it would be beneficial to do at the regular September meeting. Mayor Owens stated if he decides to call a meeting and she is unavailable she will not be there and her decision. Councilman Palmer stated that is inconsiderate. Mayor Owens stated it is important to point out a meeting has not been called yet. Councilman Palmer commented he has already said he would call it if he wants to. Mayor Owens stated he would not characterize it as 'if he wants to'. What he said was between now and the work session that question will be presented to the Council, whether it is a called meeting or at the work session.

Either way the citizens of the town and the Council will be notified appropriately along with the newspaper. Everyone will be notified. Mayor Owens asked the city manager if he had any questions as it related to the consensus. City Manager Stroud replied he did not. There were no additional questions related to the budget or position and classification plan.

Mayor Owens stated the public had an opportunity to hear what is on slate for the second public hearing. The floor was opened for any member of the public to speak related to the budget. Julie Tucker stated they are planning on outsourcing that 'function' as he [Mayor] said a number of times. The person they are going to outsource to said all it takes is an iPhone to knock the cameras off. The first time it was done the cameras went off. She was told, because she was sitting next to her [Scarlett Wimberly], it was her [Ms. Tucker] phone and her [Ms. Wimberly] system could identify her IP address and that is scary to her [Ms. Tucker]. It will not take much for that to be knocked out and they need to be aware that is not a good option. Mayor Owens stated it was a good point and they did two runs and the second one went all the way through. The window to the public as it relates to the meetings is not solely Facebook. Meetings are open to the public whether Facebook is running or not. There was no Facebook and it started with this Council and councilmembers. What he recommends if citizens are concerned about technology, meetings are open to the public. Ms. Tucker stated they could do like they do at the school board meetings and bring their own phone and publically send to Facebook. Mayor Owens stated she could do that and it is not a problem. Ms. Tucker made additional comments and there being no further public comments, the hearing was closed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-08-24-1 – AMENDMENT FOR FY 2020-2021

Mayor Owens stated as a reminder the current extension they are under for the budget ends September 30th of this year. He will not go over the entire resolution and pointed out one of the Whereas that is important to state for the record how they got to this point. He stated they had a budget discrepancy as it related to balancing the budget partly in our police department for overtime for the Tyson contract. It is a matter of record that some of the work was not billed. Over the course of the last couple weeks the city manager, based on the recommendation from the auditor, asked the question can we use public money to cover a private debt. The auditor, and he [Mayor Owens] paraphrased, stated he does not see a reason why they would do that. If we have not billed the private entity we need to send them a bill. The city manager did that about ten days ago and the item is still outstanding. It is only for that reason a bill has been sent to Tyson that he is comfortable recommending to Council to approve the budget amendment as presented. He read from the resolution: Whereas, although a majority of the Council intend to transfer funds and amend the budget to cover the operating deficit in the police department, this act should not be construed as to approval of the administration of the Tyson contract. It is important that is part of the record as they send to the DOAA (Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts). It is important they know the Council feels that way. Mayor Owens asked for a motion from the floor to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Councilman Pollard and seconded by Councilman Burley. Councilmember Tucker stated there is absolutely no way she can support the resolution and the rhetoric in the language is exactly what got them to the point of this narrative, resulting in an ante litem being served on the City. For the Mayor's narrative about

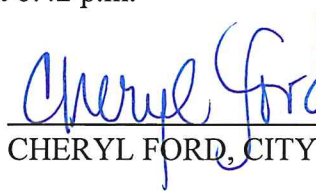
Tyson, she is on the record as being in direct opposite to the Mayor's belief and very disappointed in invoicing Tyson for overtime costs. There was no public debt and it was within the city manager's scope. She is on the record for it and will not support the resolution with the narrative. Mayor Owens stated it is his understanding at one of the council meetings she made the statement that some of the fees for overtime at Tyson were not billed. Councilmember Tucker stated it was within the city manager's discretion based on the fact there was a death at the Tyson facility during the daytime hours. The public has heard Tyson all they want to hear and what this community needs to do is be very appreciative to the largest employer, the largest utility customer, and one of the largest taxpayers in this community, not what a majority of the Council has been about since June of last year. Mayor Owens stated he wanted to make sure the record is clear as it relates to the resolution. He does not recall any names being called and will leave that up to the councilwoman. Councilman Palmer stated he has been against this from the start and they talked hours and hours about this and nothing is there. He is violently opposed to it and it adds fuel to the fire with the problem they have with Tyson. Rather than being cooperative, we seem to be trying to cause problems and disruptions to them and this just adds to that and absolutely against it. As usual, go ahead and spin it. Mayor Owens reminded everyone the action tonight is based on the auditor and not Owens talking. There is private debt inside the budget amendment. There is no private money to balance it and we are using public money to balance it. Our auditor stated he does not see a reason to do that and if they have not billed it, bill it. As Mayor he has the responsibility to follow the advice of the auditor. Councilman Pollard stated he hoped it is on the record and does not know what it means to be violently opposed. Voting in favor of approving Resolution No. 2022-08-24-1 amending the budget of the City of Camilla for fiscal year ending 2021: Councilmen Burley, Pollard, and Morgan. Voting in opposition of approving the Resolution: Councilmember Tucker and Councilmen Palmer and Collins. Mayor Owens broke the tie vote with a yes and the motion to approve the resolution passed.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Councilman Pollard the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.



KELVIN OWENS, MAYOR




CHERYL FORD, CITY CLERK

CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA ~ SIGN-IN SHEET

DATE: August 24 2022 TIME: 5:00 ☐ A.M. ☒ P.M.

MEETING: ☒ COUNCIL ☐ WORK SESSION ☒ OTHER: CALLED MTG

	NAME	ADDRESS	SPEAKER		TOPIC OF DISCUSSION
			NO	YES	
1	STEVE SYKES	132 Phasent Ridge Trille GA		✓	street paving
2	Julie Tucker	178 Court Dr. Camilla	✓		
3	Kathy Cowen	112 Roosevelt St Camilla	✓		
4	Debbie Phelps	387 Baber Pl Camilla	✓		
5	Bryant Langford	246 Main St	✓		
6	Cal of home	Camilla			
7	Paul Venn	4651 Scarlett Ln Cutler	✓		
8					
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2022-2023 Proposed Budget public hearing

CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA
SEPTEMBER 21, 2022



Budget Presentation Outline

- ▶ 2022-2023 Proposed Budget Document Presentation
- ▶ Budget Policies, Process and Timeline
- ▶ Overview of Funds
- ▶ General Fund Revenues and Special Funds
- ▶ Strategic Initiatives

- ▶ Next Steps

Document Overview

- ▶ Developed IAW Georgia Finance Officers Association
- ▶ Used as guide
- ▶ Financial Planning
- ▶ Tool for communicating the financial health of the City
- ▶ Oversight

2022 -2023 Proposed Budget Overview

	▶ 2021	2022	2023
GF	8,429,700	9,178,800	9,887,185
W&S	7,276,300	7,087,760	6,367,800
Elec	15,034,600	16,541,540	18,367,235
Gas	3,467,500	3,818,800	4,541,200
Solid Waste	814,000	829,100	829,150
Airport	557,600	565,100	594,000
CNS	437,500	437,500	437,500
Total	36,017,600	38,458,600	41,024,072.00

Economic Challenges

- ▶ Rising Electric and Gas rates
- ▶ Lack of substantial population growth
- ▶ Lack of new housing

Budget priorities

- ▶ Funding level sufficient to pay outstanding debt obligations
- ▶ Maintain current level of service
- ▶ Fund Public Works improvement projects
- ▶ Retention Incentives

SPLOST

- ▶ Estimated to receive 3,314,148 over Six Years (23.8428% pro rata share)
- ▶ 552,358 annually
- ▶ 46,029 monthly

8000-Debt Service

- ▶ Expenditure of 831,100
- ▶ For the redemption of principal and interest payment
- ▶ Changes are
 - ▶ USDA 2020 principal
 - ▶ GEFA CWDRA 20007 principal
 - ▶ GEFA DWDRA 20010 principal
 - ▶ GEFA CW 2020 003 principal

**CITY OF CAMILLA, GEORGIA
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-08-24-1**

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF CAMILLA
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 2021; REPEALING ALL RESOLUTIONS IN
CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the City of Camilla adopted a budget to fund the delivery of services for the citizens of the City for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, during the course of the year expenditures were made for certain line items and categories of service in excess of the amount budgeted; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. §36-81-3(b)(1) provides that each unit of a local government must adopt and operate under an annual balanced budget for the general fund, each special revenue fund, and each debt service fund; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. §36-81-3(d) provides that adoption of a budget does not preclude a local government from amending its budget to provide and adapt for changing governmental needs; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. §36-81-8 provides for an annual audit of local government finances which must be submitted to the Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the submission of an audit showing an unbalanced budget by the City would produce an audit exception and potentially cause the Georgia Department of Audits to demand corrective action by the City which could include posting articles in the newspaper should the local government fail or refuse to take corrective action such refusal being a violation of state law; and

WHEREAS, during the course of the year, the City entered into an unapproved arrangement and later a written contract with Tyson Food Company to provide security at the processing plant located in the City of Camilla; and

WHEREAS, it was the intent of the contract that Tyson pay the full cost of providing this enhanced security by the City at the Tyson plant; and

WHEREAS, it is the strongly held belief of the Mayor and certain members of the City Council that the services rendered by the City of Camilla may not have been fully compensated by Tyson Foods; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief by a majority of the Council that the contract produced significant overtime expenses in the police department and created unapproved and consequently unexpected over expenditures for police services; and

WHEREAS, while a majority of the Council believes it necessary and proper to take appropriate steps to amend the budget so that it is balanced prior to submission of the audit, a majority of the Council disagree with the contract entered into between the City and Tyson; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the passage of this resolution amending the budget, it is the intent of the majority of the Council to conduct an independent financial audit and determine the exact cost of entering into this contract by the City of Camilla; and

WHEREAS, although a majority of the Council intend to transfer funds and amend the budget to cover the operating deficit in the police department, this act should not be construed as to approval of the administration of the Tyson Food contract; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is adopted with grave reservations on the part of the majority of the Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Camilla as follows:

Section 1. The amendments to the City of Camilla's revenue and expenditures for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, attached hereto as Exhibit "A" are adopted and approved.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to auditors for the city of Camilla for the purpose of providing for a balanced budget to be audited and forwarded to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Department of Audits.

Section 3. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are repealed.

SO RESOLVED, this 24TH day of AUGUST, 2022.



Councilmember

Councilmember

Councilmember

CITY OF CAMILLA

By: _____

Mayor, Kelvin Owens

Councilmember

Councilmember

Councilmember

Attest: _____

Clerk, Cheryl Ford

EXHIBIT "A"

1. General Fund

Revenues: Net Increase of \$384,050	
TAVT	\$128,000
Insurance Premium Taxes	32,700
Housing Authority-PILOT	73,800
GEMA/FEMA Reimbursement	25,600
Reimbursement/Damaged Property	93,950
Building Permits	15,000
Transfer in from ARPA Fund	<u>15,000</u>
Total	\$384,050

Total

Expenditures: Net Increase of \$384,050

Financial Administration	\$144,200
Legal	22,700
Government Buildings	20,800
Customer Service	90,100
Police	190,900
Fire	41,000
Public Works	77,300
Transfers to Airport Fund	7,100
City Manager	-68,300
Inmate Housing	-9,800
Planning & Zoning	-9,950
Fund Balance Reserve	<u>-114,900</u>
Total	\$384,050

2. The City of Camilla amends its General Fund Reserves and Expenditures budget for a total of \$8,813,750.

ARPA Fund

Revenues-ARPA Grant Funds \$936,000

Expenditures

Transfers to General Fund	\$ 15,000
Transfers to Water/Sewer Fund	1,830
Transfers to Electric Fund	840
Transfers to Gas Fund	1,330
Fund Balance Reserve	<u>917,000</u>

Total Expenditures \$936,000

3. The City of Camilla adopts an ARPA Fund revenues and expenditures budget for a total of \$936,000.